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Washington city is the heart of the republic. It is the center of the energies of the American people. Not always is Washington thus thought of, because it is not here that the rumble of great trade beats on the ear. It is not here that black fogs, belched from red furnaces, pour from the stacks of foundries, factories and mills. It is not here that hordes of men and women and children, too, rush along the street as though haste were the goal of life. It is not here that time is thought too precious for men to draw a natural breath or land too dear to give to a flower or a tree. But for all this, Washington is the heart of the republic. It is the political heart "from which the influence flows that determine the destiny of the nation." Every throb is felt throughout the Union. It is here that the chief functions of the body politic are performed, and it is on the proper performance of these functions that the civic health depends. Here it is that money, which makes the pulse of the nation throb, is authorized and created. Here it is infused into the arteries of trade, giving life and health, force and vigor, warmth and color to all the people. And, when it has run its course, when it has become old, sullied and contaminated, it is to Washington that it comes to be renewed, released or redeemed. Worn and defaced, if not effaced, it comes in; bright, fresh and young again it goes out to strengthen all the organs of trade, commerce or other industry in the performance of their functions. Thus, as the blood of a man passes or repasses through his heart, so the blood of the nation to which that wonderful medium of exchange which we call money has been so often likened, passes and repasses through the heart of the republic. True, the mints where gold and silver, nickel and copper, are milled in discs and stamped with legends which make them everywhere welcome, are not in Washington. They are in Philadelphia, New Orleans and San Francisco—subordinate cities. But these mints, precious foundries that they are, are only branches of the great money-making establishment—the Congress and the treasury at Washington.

Nation's Money Center.
Money is one feature of Washington which excites much comment. "What clean money you have here," say visitors from the south, visitors from the north, visitors from the west, as they hand forth a frayed and frizzled, greasy, grimy bill, tattered as a battle flag, and receive in exchange currency that is crisp and crinkling, as lustrous as the shimmering metal it stands for—new currency cleanly dressed in white and black, green and yellow, with a seal, which on some bills is as blue as the Danube is said to be in song and story, and which on other bills is as rosy as the sun when it sinks behind the hills of Arlington. "Filthy lucre" is a phrase not often heard in Washington unless in description of paper money from other parts of the country.

The vast treasure chest of the nation is in Washington. Not only is it here that the mints of Midas boom and whirl as they reel off miles of stuff which men mistake for happiness, but here also are stored dazzling heaps of gold, the money of ultimate redemption, money the world over in all that the word money means. Then there are mounds, almost mountains of silver and great bales of paper currency piled bale on bale. All representative of that yellow prize for which the world strives. Washington is the Manchester of money. Money is talked of and thought of in Washington in vaster sums, in vaster amounts than in other cities. Whereas in other cities men speak of millions, here in the white pile upon the hill statesmen and other members of Congress speak of hundreds of millions and sometimes a billion—for army, for navy, for pensions, for internal improvements, or legislative, executive and judicial expenses—and they talk in these mighty figures several months each year, and the size of their talk grows bigger as the nation expands. It is at the Capitol indeed where one hears figures of speech. It is at the other end of Pennsylvania avenue where the warrants are drawn and final authority given for the disbursement of those great sums. When the New York banks get pinched, where do they turn for cash? To Washington. In which direction do they cast their languishing gaze when they need money and have bonds to sell? To Washington. This much of Washington as a money center.

Head of the Republic.
Washington is not only the heart of the republic; it is also the head of the republic. It is in Washington that ideas on government are crystallized. It is here that thoughts on government take sensible form and definite shape. And government is a subject which affects every man, whether he lives in the pines of New England or among the poppies of the Pacific slope, whether he lives in the sage and grease wood of the northern deserts or among the palms of the tropics. Ideas on government may take verbal form elsewhere and everywhere; men may speak out in meeting and orate in convention, but if those ideas are to take the form of law which shall apply to all men from frontier to frontier and from one to the other of the seas that "hank" the Union, such form must be given them at Washington, and if a law be given in the legislature of one state or in the Congress of all the states, it is for an august tribunal of black-robed, grave and reverend judges, sitting at Washington, to determine whether such law is in consonance or conflict with the Constitution, and therefore whether such law shall stand or

fall. It is at Washington where problems in government and the people's representatives meet face to face; great doctrines enunciated and policies made of effect. It is from Washington that orders are promulgated which change the mail schedule at Sitka or fire a cannon at Key West. An order issued at Washington is heard half way around the world, and obeyed from San Juan to Manila. Washington is the focal point for the vision of men who would be statesmen, and the city is the shrine to which gravitates the ambition of men who seek honor (and profit) in the service of the people.

Washington began its career under auspicious conditions as the capital of the greatest of all republics—and might it not be written without characterization as provincial conceit—the greatest of all governments? Its progress for 102 years has been satisfactory; its future is glorious with promise. Washington, unlike so many capitals, did not become a capital by accident. Nor yet did it become a capital because it was a convenient place, affording accommodation for the officers and offices of government. It did not. It became a capital in spite of its lack of the feature of convenience. Washington was born a capital. As a capital Washington was the result of premeditation, deliberation and design on the part of the fathers of a permanent republicanism, and whose wisdom we still cherish.

Site of the Capital.

The great cities of the United States—and some that were not great—in the eighteenth century wanted to be the seat of the American government. But the wise men of the nation withstood the claims and clamor of the cities, saying to them: "We will have none of you. We would have as a capital a city more regular and harmonious in its beauty, more methodical and consistent in its plan, more serene in its environment, and less strenuous than thou. We will go into the forest and erect a capital from the bottom up, a capital where the people from all sections of the Union may meet on common ground, a capital that shall grow in grandeur as the years go by—a capital that shall grow as the whole nation grows." These were the men of whom the President is fond of saying: "They had iron in their blood; they were not weaklings."

Then another contention arose. The north wanted the capital in the north and the south would have it in the south. There was no far west as we understand the place, the middle west. The northwest territory was in a raw, a very raw state. The savage was still so. When the site of Washington was chosen Tennessee was not a state. Neither was Kentucky. When the seat of government was removed to the territory of Columbia Ohio was not a state. Vincennes was as far away from the center as the Cape of Good Hope. Arthur St. Clair was the governor of land west of the Ohio River. The great mass of population of the United States was along the Atlantic seaboard, from eastern Massachusetts to southern Georgia. There was no objection to a site for the capital on the Potomac river at the confluence of the Anacostia, on the basis close to the center of population, which, in 1800, was eighteen miles west of Baltimore.

Roving Capitals.

Washington admits that it is today not near the center of population, which is in Indiana. But if it were a part of the capital's duty to keep near the center of population in the United States the capital would have to be always on the move. Washington admits also that it is not at the geographical center of the United States, but this is not the fault of Washington. Washington was there. It is the geographical center, and not Washington, which has moved. Washington did not know that a dozen states were to be erected out of the half million miles of territory obtained from Great Britain in 1783; that nine full states and half of Colorado were to be carved out of the Louisiana territory; that three and one-half states were to be taken from Mexico, three more built on territory claimed by discovery and settlement; or that Spain was going to yield Florida and give up islands on two sides of the earth. Certainly not. If the American capital had been picked up and set down, or torn down and built up, on the geographical center it would have to be moved just as soon as the dominion of Canada and Mexico came into the great American Union.

Representative City.

The southern location and environment of Washington and the mighty infusion of northern and western elements during and since the civil war has made of Washington a city more representative of all the Union than any other in the Union. Suppose Washington had been blazed out by red, historic battlefields, sacred acres that give inspiration to all Americans.

Volumes have been written and spoken on the subject of the government of Washington. It is anomalous. But there has been much anomaly in the government of the United States, due to compromise be-

tween what is ideal in the theory of popular self-government and expedient in the application of that theory. Men have rarely been able to give practical application to the academic dicta of doctrinaires. Washington has had several forms of government, and the end is not yet. Congress is authorized by the Constitution to "exercise exclusive legislation, in all cases whatsoever, over such district (not exceeding ten miles square) as may by cession of particular states and the acceptance of Congress become the seat of government of the United States."

The Municipal Government.

When the District of Columbia, then denominated the Territory of Columbia, was ceded by Maryland and Virginia to the government of the United States, the territory was put under the superintendence of three commissioners. This style in government subsisted until 1802, when the city of Washington was incorporated, its executive, who was appointed by the President of the United States, being styled president, and its legislature was called a council, the members of which were elected by the citizens. In 1820 a mayor, elected by the people, was substituted as the city's chief magistrate for the "president." In 1871 a territorial form of government was instituted for the District of Columbia, the governor and members of the upper house of the local legislature being appointed by the President and the members of the lower house being elected by the citizens. This form of government subsisted until 1874, when the executive authority of the District of Columbia was lodged in a board of three commissioners, appointed by the President of the United States. A bill is now pending in Congress proposing an amendment to the Constitution, which amendment would give to the District of Columbia representation in the House of Representatives, Senate and electoral college.

The government of the District of Columbia, as at present it is administered, may not be perfect, but is satisfactory to a vast majority of the governed, in that the administration of affairs is clean, orderly, progressive and free from scandal. Can New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Minneapolis and other American municipalities truly say this of their government?

Relations to Nation.

The primary responsibility for the support and development of the national capital is upon the nation; and Congress, not the people of the federal district, fixes the amount of the latter's tax contribution toward the cost of the capital's maintenance. It was with the understanding that the nation should build a magnificent capital at its own expense that the original owners of the land on which Washington stands yielded their right of self-government and donated to the nation five-sevenths of the area of the city. The nation was to reimburse itself in part from the sale of the lands donated. With this understanding the capital was planned and lots sold by the general government. Washington was to be the city of all Americans and not the city of Washingtonians. The nation violated its obligation and for three-quarters of a century the people of the District bore nearly the whole burden of the cost of creating the capital. It was not until 1878 that the nation proceeded to a partial fulfillment of its original agreement. In that year the contribution of the local taxpayers

toward the expenses of the capital was fixed by law at one-half. On the surface of things, this arrangement appears fair, but under the agreement the people of Washington make a double contribution. Paying national taxes, direct and indirect, they contribute their proportionate share of the national money expended on the capital, and as local taxpayers they contribute an amount equal to that supplied by the people of the United States, including themselves. Thus they pay taxes on both sides of the partnership and are doubly taxed without representation. They are citizens only for the purpose of taxation and military service.

While the nation up to 1878 exacted an excessive and oppressive contribution from the local taxpayers toward the upbuilding of the capital, and since that date has required all that could be equitably demanded, it has failed to carry out fully its own obligations toward the capital, having neglected these obligations for three-fourths of a century and not offering now to reimburse payments made on its account during this season of neglect.

For more than thirty years, the nation expended less than \$700 a year on streets and avenues, which were its exclusive property, whereas, during that period the nation realized \$700,000 from the sale of donated lots, the proceeds from which had been pledged for the benefit of improvements, but were not so expended. From 1790 to 1878, according to the report of a Secretary of the Treasury, the District of Columbia expended \$14,000,000 more than the United States in the improvement of streets and other work which should have been done by the general government. In addition to this sum \$25,000,000 was spent by the people of the District on local government, schools, and for other municipal purposes. The District in assuming the burden which the nation shirked brought itself to virtual bankruptcy in 1833. A committee of the Senate reported in 1835 that this condition was brought about by the people of the District, entering upon the improvement of the city with a spirit, which did not properly belong to them. In recreating the city after 1870, expenditures were again borne by the people of the District, which did not justly belong to them.

Washington's Physical Growth.

The physical growth of Washington has not been startling, but has been steady. The city has not arisen in a night. Neither has any other enduring city. There have been many towns in America whose history might be summed up as a vacant lot today, a bunch of shacks and wickups tomorrow, and heaps of tin cans next day. But Washington, like Rome, was not built in a day. It has had a little more than one hundred years' growth, and it has the growth to show for its age. One must keep in mind that the site of the capital was selected not because of its availability for trade and commerce. Trade and commerce were distinctly what the fathers of the republic and the founders of the national capital desired to get away from. And they succeeded. Naturally, though, as the capital expanded and population increased and business grew, until Washington has numerous manufacturing and streets lined with stores, some of them as fine and many of them as well stocked as may be seen in cities bigger and more boastful of enterprise than Washington. Washington is the commercial metropolis for a large population in northern Virginia and southern Maryland. Ships bring to her docks lumber from ports on the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, asphalt from Trinidad, ice and laths from Maine and New Brunswick. And from her docks sail ships bearing heavy cargoes of coal (in normal times) to principal ports on the Atlantic seaboard. Improvement in progress and projected in the Potomac will make easier the access between Washington and the sea.

Transportation Lines.

In the matter of steam railroads Washington is well served. Trunk lines radiate north, east, south and west, while a number of branch lines make a gridiron over the ambient country. Fast trains at frequent intervals give quick communication between Washington and important cities, and scores of way trains run in and out of the city for the accommodation of dwellers in the territory within Washington's "sphere of influence." The steam roads entering Washington transport to and from the city the largest crowds that assemble on the American continent. Every four years a throng from all America surges into the capital to attend the inauguration of a President. Twice within a decade the G. A. R. encampment has been held here, and the convales of the Templars, Pythians and others have met here. A national convention of some kind is a daily happening in Washington. A great plan for the improvement of railroad terminals is imminent of authorization by Congress and certain preliminary work has been entered upon by the Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio railroad companies. This will give to Washington a railroad station equal to any in the United States. The plan provides for the elimination of crossings at grade, and this disposes of a problem which vexes most cities of the Union.

Street Railway System.

Washington has shown the way to all other cities in the construction, equipment and conduct of street railroads. The horse car and the cable car disappeared so long ago that one's memory of them grows faint. The underground electric system is employed on all lines in the city. The overhead trolley pole and wire have been banished, and to the credit of the city it is said, these cradles and obstructions never gained any considerable foothold here. Washington is perhaps the only American city—certainly the only city of importance on the western continent—where the citizens were wise enough and strong enough to prevent street railway corporations from marring the streets and avenues with an unsightly tangle of trolley wires. It required a stern fight to do this, but the people of Washington did it. It is only the question of a little time when every aerial wire, telegraph and telephone in the city will be neatly tucked away in a terra cotta conduit beneath the street. Washington's cars are clean and costly, and are maintained painted and burnished. At night they are brightly lighted by incandescent lamps, and in cold weather electric heaters furnish warmth. Open cars are substituted for box cars in summer. An electric bell is con-

venient to the hand of each passenger. The cars travel fast and as a rule are close together. Tie-ups are infrequent and repair service prompt. Herding of passengers such as may be seen during rush hours in New York and Chicago is unknown here. A ticket of one line is good on every other line, and the system of transfers is generous. One may ride from end to end of the District for one fare, which is four and a quarter cents if a passenger buy a quarter's worth of tickets. Employees are uniformed, civil, patient and efficient. An unwill or impatient conductor does not long retain his position. Riding for pleasure in the open cars is a summer diversion practiced by everybody in the District. It is a model street car system and immensely popular with the people.

Washington Architecture.

In architecture Washington presents a broad field for study and contemplation. All the architecture in the city is not good. Nor is it in any other city. Every picture must have shadows. They emphasize the lights. There are more fashions of architecture represented in Washington than are represented in Notre Dame as described by Victor Hugo. We have the severe and the ornate, the classic and the up-to-date, the ground-floor dwelling and the steel-frame skyscraper, the Doric, Ionic and Corinthian, the Gothic and the Renaissance, the American Colonial, the Moorish and a thousand variants and combinations of these styles. We have beauty and ugliness in brick, granite and mortar—"poems in marble" and rhapsodies in rock. There is the Capitol, wide, massive, majestic, grand in its strength and grace, happy in its harmony of weight and lightness. There is the Library of Congress, one gigantic cube of sculpture, inspiring at once in richness and chastity—a reminder of what other public buildings might be, but are not. Then there is the pension office building. Yes, gentle reader, there it is—a geometric pile of brick with a barn roof. There is the patent office, its pallid features mellowing with age—simple and elegant—a building that directs one's thoughts back 2,600 years to the time when Doris was a factor in Greece. There is the old Post Office Department building, symmetrical in outline, mellow in color, a reminder of old Corinth. Then there is the new Post Office Department building, overgrown, awkward and ungainly. And then to think of the time wasted in its construction! And some persons say time is money! There is the White House, simple and democratic, characteristic of an age in our life and manners when a man could be hospitable without being imposed on as an "easy mark." There is the Smithsonian Institute, with pointed arches and mullioned windows, cold and austere in its Gothicism. One could easily mistake it for a medieval monastery or feudal castle.

Changes in Architecture.

The sky line of Washington has undergone a marked change in one decade. For years the Sun building, the Cairo and the Loan and Trust building were the only examples of private architecture which boldly towered high above their neighbors. But this is not the case now. The building regulations of the District limit the height to which buildings may be constructed, and this prevents the erection of structures of unsightly tallness and slenderness. The height to which a private building may be carried is dependent on the width of the street and on whether such street is a business or a residence street. On a business thoroughfare having a width of 100 feet the limit to a building's height is 90 feet above the grade of that street. The inspection of buildings to determine the strength of construction and the soundness of materials entering into them is severe, and no condition like that of which the press of Chicago have recently complained has ever affected Washington. Buildings are also subject to inspection by the fire and sanitary departments.

In private architecture there is a variety which keeps one's eyes alert. In New York in the millionaires' district there is a weariness of brownstone. The rich man's district in New York has been dismal in brownstone for a century. As tradesmen have driven him from the southern to the northern part of the city he has taken his brownstone front with him. The new York is always particularly about his front. In Philadelphia there is a monotony of compact rows of red brick and white facings. In Baltimore there are more compact rows of red brick, each with a little white marble stoop at its door. There is no such dull uniformity in Washington. Though ground is valuable, grass and shrubbery are grown about the houses, as is the case in San Francisco, Richmond, Charleston, Savannah and smaller cities. On some of the residence streets here there is a wealth of front yard and side lawn suggestive of Michigan avenue and an abundance of foliage suggestive of Euclid and Commonwealth avenues. There is individuality in the houses. The Townsend house at the intersection of Massachusetts and Florida avenues is as unlike the Henderson house on 16th street north of the boundary as the new house of Mr. Walsh on Massachusetts avenue is dissimilar from the Bean homestead on Columbia Heights. There is no tenement district. There is a Chinese quarter, an Italian quarter, a Greek quarter and Ghetto to lend a charm of diversity. East and west of the city, laborers, whose day's wage is \$1.25, own house and yard, the children

go to school and church and the mother keeps house instead of working out. Washington is a home city.

Growth of Apartment Houses.

A feature of Washington, but a feature common to all the big cities, is the growth of apartment houses. Twenty years ago the Portland was about the only "flat" house in the District, and it is doubtful if it did not have more the character of an hotel than an apartment house. The Portland was followed by the Cairo. There was a pause for a few years, and then the flat madness or the flat saneness, according to one's opinion of the subject, came over the people. It was a contagion or a suggestion, because a blessing, contracted from New York and Chicago. Apartment houses sprung up everywhere, and are still springing up. Dwellings have been converted and are being converted into flat houses. The number of restaurants has appreciably increased, and the all-night eating place has become common, whereas twenty years ago there were only about two places in New York and Chicago. The development of the hotel industry in Washington has been remarkable. Just like other cities, it had hostilities of the solid, comfortable olden type, whose rich food, wholesome food, bountiful food, well-cooked food and adequately served food was known from Sandy Hook to Point Lobos. There were hotels in old Washington that with the last generation ranked with the Barmen of Baltimore, Girard of Philadelphia, old Planners of St. Louis, old Monongahela of Pittsburgh, old St. Charles of New Orleans, Brunswick and Windsor of New York, Parker House in Boston and Galt House in Louisville. The new era of hotels seems to have opened with the Palmer House, Chicago; Palace, San Francisco, and New Southern, St. Louis. Then the east came to the front and the uptown New York houses were built. Washington was a little slow in falling into line, but the city has hotels now which in architecture, appointments and service vie with the best. But the older houses, whose specialties are bread, meat and comfort, and not only silver, cut glass and sumptuousness, are doing business at the old stand. If Washington ever was provincial, as some of her critics have charged, that charge cannot now be made with truth.

A City of Books.

In books and in the reading of them Washington is at the top of the list. There is a shelf of books in Washington equal to every man, woman and child in any other city. First, there is the Library of Congress, which receives two copies of every book copyrighted, which is equivalent to every book published in the United States. Over a million books are there, from Bibles and Korans and Zend-Avestas and Vedas written by hand on parchment a thousand years ago to a yellow-bait bit of fiction hustled off the press but yesterday. It is opulent in the possession of books dealing with sacred and secular science. There is not anything in the line of published fact or fiction, about men, things or nothing, that cannot be drawn down from the shelves, racks or stacks of this vast bookery. Then there is the Library of the Army Medical Museum, the largest medical library in the world. There are the rich scientific libraries of the Smithsonian, Botanic Gardens, the Naval Observatory, the law library of the Supreme Court, that useful library known as the House document room and Senate document room, the City Hall library, the library of the State Department, the Interior Department, the War Department, the Navy Department, the Agricultural Department; libraries in all the departments, and a library in most of the bureaus of each department. One must not overlook the private libraries of the host of student active and retired, and of the government scientists who dwell here. Then there is a rare library at Georgetown College, and other libraries are in the nebular state at the Catholic University of America, the Episcopal University and the Methodist University. Washington's municipal public circulating library has 43,000 books, a number which is fast increasing, and is soon to be housed in the new building donated by Andrew Carnegie. Washington is a book arsenal.

A vast amount of information is poured into the ear of the Washingtonian or the visitor who will listen. There are debates in Congress, arguments in the Supreme Court, free readings for the blind, open lectures by the National Geographic Society, the Anthropological Society, the Ethnological Society, the Geological Society, the Biological Society, the Chemical Society, the Botanical Society and a dozen other associations of scientific men, most of whom are in the service of the government.

Washington has not gained general recognition as an art center, but there is plenty of art in the ten-mile square. The Corcoran Art Gallery is rich in art works, canvases, marbles and bronzes, and the collection is rapidly increasing. Public statues erected with patriotic intent are on every side. There is a great number of parks, and nearly every park has its statue. There are even statues without parks, as, for instance, Lincoln before the city hall, Peace monument, Garfield in Maryland avenue, while Hancock, Rawlins, Albert Pike, Scott and Luther stand on more grass plots. Statues of Jackson, Lafayette and Rochambeau all find a resting place in one square.

Washington is a great city and will be the greatest capital on earth.